

عبدالله

حزب

UNIFIL mandate renewed

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 19 (R)—The Security Council today voted by 12 votes to none a five-month extension of the mandate of the peacekeeping United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia abstained while China did not participate in the vote. The Council also decided to extend the mandate for a further five months, which expired at midnight. In its resolution, the Council deplored the lack of cooperation, particularly on Israel's part, with UNIFIL's efforts to fully implement its mandate, including the assistance to irregular armed groups in southern Lebanon.

JORDAN TIMES

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UNRWA to continue rations

DAMASCUS, Jan. 19 (R)—The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has agreed to continue providing full rations to its dependents for at least three months, a senior Palestinian spokesman said here today. The agency announced last year it would have to reduce some supplies because of a multi-million dollar budget deficit. Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizer, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the accord had been reached during talks he had with UNRWA Director Peter Macilheny in Damascus last night. Mr. Abu Maizer said the PLO would use all its influence to help raise funds for the agency, but that it would not cooperate as long as the threat of cutting supplies was maintained.

AMMAN, SATURDAY JANUARY 20, 1979 - SAFAR 21, 1399

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

In 10-point resolution

1.5 million Iranians large Islamic republic

TEHRAN, Jan. 19 (R)—More than 1.5 million people gathered peacefully through the city of Tehran today calling for an Islamic republic and warning the world never to return from his holiday. The marches were reported in major cities, but usually in smaller ones. In the southern city of Dezful, said that Wednesday at least 20 people had been shot dead and 50 injured by troops loyal to the Shah. Tehran march, under a sea of portraits of the exiled Shah, the symbol of the Islamic movement, Ayatollah Khomeini, went off fully. Most troops were ordered to barracks for the day. Reports from Dezful said soldiers were forcing citizens to shout live the Shah. Casualties in Dezful had risen to 37 the death toll, said by reliable sources in similar demonstrations in Dezful in the past two days. Iranian sources said they feared with in such action by troops loyal to the Shah, Iran into anarchy. Prime Minister, Dr. Pour Bahman, was quoted as saying yesterday that if his two-

week-old civilian government were forced out by Ayatollah Khomeini and his followers a military coup and widespread bloodshed were inevitable.

Today's marchers in Tehran adopted by acclamation, with ear-splitting chants, a 10-point resolution calling for an Islamic republic and attacking the Bakhtiari government as illegal.

The seemingly endless ocean of humanity arrived in waves throughout the day on the grassy knolls surrounding the towering, white-marble monument of Shahyad, which means, ironically, the King's Memorial.

The demonstrators wheeled a 10-metre high portrait of the Ayatollah Khomeini under the four-legged arch of the tower and renamed it the Khomeini Monument.

Although many of the songs, chants and slogans attacking the Shah were delivered with clenched fists and venom, no incidents were reported in Tehran.

Several individual army conscripts unarmed and dressed in fatigues, were seen taking part in the march and praying with the demonstrators at the tower in Western Tehran near the Mehrabad International Airport, which was closed for the day.

Eye-witnesses had the impression that the whole of Tehran's female population took part, most swathed in black robes revealing only their eyes but many wearing western clothes.

Thousands of stewards, youths with yellow armbands, controlled traffic around the procession routes and held back the crowds from the square below the Shahyad Monument. When they arrived, the crowds sat cross-legged and prayed, stretching back in all directions as far as the eye could see.

The resolution was carried through a chain of loudspeakers for several kilometres to demonstrators still filing along the central Shah Reza Avenue.

Marxist and other leftist groups joined the main procession from points around Tehran University, carrying banners saying "down with U.S. imperialism" and calling for armed struggle to end the Iranian monarchy.

But the anti-western sentiment which has built up in Iran over the past few weeks was less obvious today than it had been for some time and western correspondents were well treated by the marchers and stewards.

As the marchers began to disperse before nightfall, still forming impressive masses in various areas, small numbers of troops were seen returning to patrol the city centre.

In Neauphle-le-Chateau, France, Ayatollah Khomeini today described mass demonstrations in Iran as a referendum for an Islamic republic.

Asked whether the Islamic government he wanted for Iran would not turn its back on modernism, Ayatollah Khomeini said an Islamic government would build a modern country but it would crack down on drug usage, prostitution and "immoral films which corrupt our youth."

The Shah emerged today from the strict seclusion he has observed since leaving his troubled country on Tuesday and attended prayers at an Aswan mosque with President Anwar Sadat.

Since leaving Iran the Shah and Empress Farah have been staying at a luxury hotel at Elephant Island on the River Nile.

Egyptian presidential aide Sayed Marei said the royal couple would leave Egypt on Monday and travel to Rabat as the guests of King Hassan of Morocco.

They are expected to go later to the United States.

Neither the Shah nor President Sadat spoke to reporters.



With raised fists, demonstrators underline their support of an Islamic republic for Iran during a mass rally, Friday, called for by exiled religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. (AP wirephoto)

PLO restates wish for close ties

By Lee S. Tesdell
Special to the Jordan Times

DAMASCUS, Jan. 19 (J.T.)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation is "keen to have relations with Jordan," Mohammad Subieh, secretary general of the Palestine National Council told the Jordan Times here today. "We unanimously accepted in principle to have these relations," he said. "Now it depends on how Jordan will react."

On the subject of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's forthcoming visit to meet with His Majesty King Hussein, Subieh said, "I think he will be there soon."

While the 14th annual session of the 301-member PNC was meeting at a trade union headquarters across the street from the Meridien Hotel in Damascus, Israeli troops attacked a Palestinian position in southern Lebanon. Asked whether the PLO would retaliate for the attack, spokesman Mahmud Labadi said: "It is not a question of retaliation. We are a resistance movement fighting to recover our homeland."

"This means that such acts of Zionist aggression will not deter us from carrying on our struggle inside the occupied territories. The armed struggle will go on," he continued at his daily news conference.

Subieh told the Jordan Times that both the Baghdad Conference meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and Chairman Arafat and the earlier meeting of the two men in northern Jordan had led to strengthening ties between the Jordanians and the PLO. The Palestinians are hopeful as well that the current Syrian-Iraqi accords unification moves will strengthen the Arab position against Israel.

Conference sources, quoted by Reuters, said the debate within the PNC shows the unity of Palestinian groups around opposition to Camp David peace plans. The council, they reported, had approved a draft programme rejecting the notion of limited self rule on the West Bank and Gaza. Stepped up military actions against Israel were also called for, they said.

In another unifying move, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has apparently decided to rejoin the 15 member executive committee of the PLO.

Mr. Labadi stressed that the PNC is a democratic organisation in which each member may express his or her views. This was confirmed to the Jordan Times by Mr. Subieh, who said that 100 members of the 301 will have made statements by the end of the approximately week-long conference.

Israel attacks Lebanon

Massive ground, air and artillery attack

AYISHIYA, Lebanon, Jan. 19 (Agencies)—Twenty-one people were killed and 13 wounded in an Israeli ground, air and artillery attack in South Lebanon today, a Palestinian Commando spokesman said.

The attack was directed against this tiny mountain village and the settlement of Amoun, both about seven kilometres from the Israeli border.

A senior Palestinian commander, Abu Jihad, told Reuters that after several hours of fighting the Israelis were forced to call in helicopters to evacuate their wounded.

In Amoun, the Israelis destroyed a camp of the rebel Lebanese Arab Army (LAA), which is allied with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and at least seven LAA troops were killed.

Commanders here from Fatah, the biggest Palestinian group in the PLO, told Reuters the Israelis launched their attack from the nearby stronghold of Marjayoun.

Planes made strafing runs and artillery pounded the area as about 100 Israeli troops advanced on this village over the craggy mountains around Ayishiya and Amoun.

The Israeli push was halted about a kilometre away. "Our soldiers in forward positions saw the Israelis coming and opened fire," one Palestinian said.

A Reuters correspondent near Ayishiya saw signs of heavy fighting and blood-stained bandages on the ground near an abandoned Israeli uniform.

While Israeli reports said the attacks were aimed at the PLO, the heaviest casualties appeared to have been suffered by the LAA.

Military sources said the LAA troops had been taken by surprise in concrete bunkers in their camp at Amoun, situated on a hillside below the ruins of Beaufort Castle, a medieval Crusader fort.

Four corpses blocked the smoke-blackened entrance of an LAA underground concrete bunker.

Israeli shellfire had shattered two buildings nearby. The wife of a farmer picked through the ruins of her home, wailing for two relatives buried under the debris.

On the single-track road leading north from Amoun to the main town in the area, Nabatiyah, two buildings were devastated by artillery fire.

Sabfik Awad, an elderly farmer, said two of his relatives—a man and young girl—were believed dead under the rubble of one house.

In the southern port town of Tyre tonight, travellers reported Israeli shelling of the Burj al Shemali, a village including a Palestinian refugee camp, and a farm east of Tyre.

There were no reports of casualties, but the travellers said palls of black smoke hung over the areas, apparently bombed from inside Israel.

Outside the smouldering ruins of the second building stood a wrecked olive-green four wheel-drive vehicle of the type used by Palestinian guerrillas. But there was no indication whether it belonged to the PLO or whether there had been casualties there.

The Israelis said they had preceded their attack with a half-hour artillery barrage—and the two buildings appeared to have been the targets.

The small LAA camp below Beaufort Castle was in ruins. The only artillery piece there was an ageing field gun that had been blown up by explosives placed in the barrel.

There was no sign of weapons in the jumble of corpses at the bunker entrance, set close to a village already battered from the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon last March.

In Tel Aviv, Israel's Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. Rafael Eitan said his paratroopers and infantrymen footslogged in darkness 16 kilometres into South Lebanon and waded across the Litani river to destroy two Palestinian bases early today.

He claimed at a press briefing that the Israelis killed between 20 and 25 men and destroyed buildings, equipment, arms and ammunition.

Israel suffered only one casualty, a soldier slightly wounded in the leg by shrapnel, Gen. Eitan claimed.

The Israelis brought back one prisoner who identified himself as a member of the LAA, according to the Israeli state radio.

Atherton still unsuccessful

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 19 (R)—Prime Minister Menachem Begin met Special United States Envoy Alfred Atherton today and promised to present to his cabinet new American proposals on breaking the impasse on Israeli-Egyptian peace talks.

Mr. Atherton arrived here earlier this week heading a delegation of legal experts to try to bridge gaps between Israeli and Egyptian positions on the wording of the treaty.

Mr. Begin and the American diplomat would not disclose details of their discussion today, but the Israeli Premier told reporters the new ideas presented would be discussed by his cabinet, presumably during its weekly session on Sunday.

Earlier today, for the fifth time this week, Mr. Atherton met the director-general of Mr. Begin's bureau, Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who heads the Israeli negotiating team.

Cabinet sources said the entire series of talks revolved around three critical points in the proposed peace treaty worked out by Egyptian and Israeli delegations in Washington last November.

On these points, the sources said, Israel totally rejects Egyptian demands to link their bilateral treaty with a future solution of the Palestinian issue on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

The Israelis stress that the treaty with Egypt must take precedence over any past commitments made by Cairo to fellow Arab states.

While Egypt wants to preserve the right to aid an Arab state if it becomes subject to Israeli aggression, Israel argues that there must be a clear definition of the term aggression in the treaty. American official sources said Mr. Atherton was trying to find a way to define the term during his talks here.

Another issue being raised is a proposal by Egypt to review security arrangements in the Sinai Desert five years after the conclusion of peace.

Mr. Atherton will have a private dinner with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan tonight. He is expected to leave on Sunday but U.S. officials said he may have another meeting with Israeli leaders before his departure.

China to open consular ties with Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (R)—China might open relations at the commercial or consular level with Israel before a peace agreement with Egypt was signed, the afternoon newspaper Maariv quoted a senior Chinese diplomat today as saying.

The paper said the diplomat, whom it named as S.P. Liu based in New York with the Chinese United Nations mission, was in Israel last week to inspect U.N. peace-keeping forces.

It quoted him as saying he had visited Peking three weeks ago and had raised the possibility of establishing China-Israel relations with foreign ministry officials there.

Assad, Ford discuss ME

DAMASCUS, Jan. 19 (R)—President Hafez Al Assad today explained to former U.S. President Gerald Ford Syria's views on the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel. Official sources quoted Mr. Ford as saying he and President Assad had discussed Middle East developments.

President Assad gave a luncheon in honour of Mr. Ford, who left for Aswan after a four-hour visit.

UK 'virtually blockaded'

IDAHO, Jan. 19 (R)—Snow-blocked Britain, struggling with its worst industrial crisis in 10 years, faces more strikes Monday by 1.1 million low-wage workers who do the nation's jobs.

Emergency ambulance crews will join the strike, and London ambulance drivers' spokesman, Bill Warner, warned today: "This time it is determined that the capital take notice of what we are saying, and if that means lives lost, so be it."

He showed trade union attempts to limit picketing did not work with immediate success.

A CBI spokesman said first reports today did not show a marked improvement and pickets were out in force—particularly in North England.

It was clear the strike had not lived up to the worst fears of Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey who three days ago predicted that some one million men would be laid off by the end of this week.

Employers and officials said it was hard to estimate the number of lay-offs but the figure did exceed 150,000.

Next Monday's "national day of action" had been coordinated by four trade unions pressing for huge pay hikes. In some cases they are demanding 40 and 50 per cent increases.

Mr. Callaghan has been trying to keep wage rises down to five per cent but has said the low paid may have slightly more.

Train drivers have scheduled another one-day national strike on Tuesday—their third this month—and tomorrow travellers face disruption at London airport because of a stoppage by some ground staff.

Nurses are claiming a 25 per cent increase. They have said they may take some industrial action but will never go on all-out strike.

A public opinion poll today fuelled the ruling Labour Party's fear that the strike-crisis could lose Mr. Callaghan this year's election. It showed the party's standing had slipped further behind the opposition Conservative Party.

The poll, in the Daily Telegraph, reported the Conservatives had a seven-and-a-half per cent lead with 49 per cent support compared to Labour's forty-one and a half.

The fighting, which at one point had reached within 15 km of the Thai border, had been expected to send 60,000 Kampuchean refugees into Thailand.

A Bangkok official sources said the Vietnamese-backed forces were using swift mobile units to capture towns and highlands but that loyalists were still in control of many jungle areas where they were using as bases for assessment talks.

WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP

Syria, UAE to sign judicial agreement

ABU DHABI, Jan. 19 (R)—Syrian Justice Minister Adib Al Nahaw arrived here today on a six-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for talks to boost bilateral judicial cooperation, the official Emirates News Agency reported. The agency said Mr. Nahaw had paid tribute to UAE-Syrian relations and said that during his visit he would sign a judicial cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Biggest China-Australia wheat deal in 20 years

PEKING, Jan. 19 (R)—China has bought 2.5 million tonnes of wheat from Australia for shipment up to the end of December this year, Australian officials said today. In Melbourne Wheat Board Chairman Sir Leslie Price said the sale, worth an estimated 250 million dollars (285 million U.S. dollars), was the biggest deal made with China for nearly 20 years.

Patriarch to open Coptic church in Britain

CAIRO, Jan. 19 (R)—The Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Shenouda III, will inaugurate the first Orthodox Coptic church in Britain during a 12-day visit to London starting on Jan. 27, his office announced today. It said the Patriarch, the first Coptic Orthodox leader to visit Britain, will go on to Geneva on Feb. 7 for a two-day visit as guest of the World Council of Churches. There are about six million Copts in Egypt and many followers in Sudan and Ethiopia.

Paul Meurisse of French stage and screen dies

PARIS, Jan. 19 (R)—French stage and film actor Paul Meurisse died of a heart attack in Paris during the night, aged 65, hospital officials said today.

He was rushed to the American Hospital at Neuilly after a performance at the Theatre des Arts-Hebertot last night. The son of a Dunkirk banker, he started his comedian's career in a Paris music-hall in 1936 and 20 years later became a member of France's Comedie Francaise. Paul Meurisse, one-time partner of singer Edith Piaf, was the star in countless theatrical shows, ranging from Moliere and Shakespearean plays to light boulevard comedies. He also acted in 84 films.

Dayan to visit France

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 19 (R)—Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will pay a two-day official visit to France starting on Jan. 29 as the guest of French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

Ethiopia, South Yemen want open, free Red Sea

NAIROBI, Jan. 19 (R)—The leaders of Ethiopia and South Yemen have issued a joint communique calling for the Red Sea to be kept open to international traffic and made a zone of peace. Addis Ababa Radio reported.

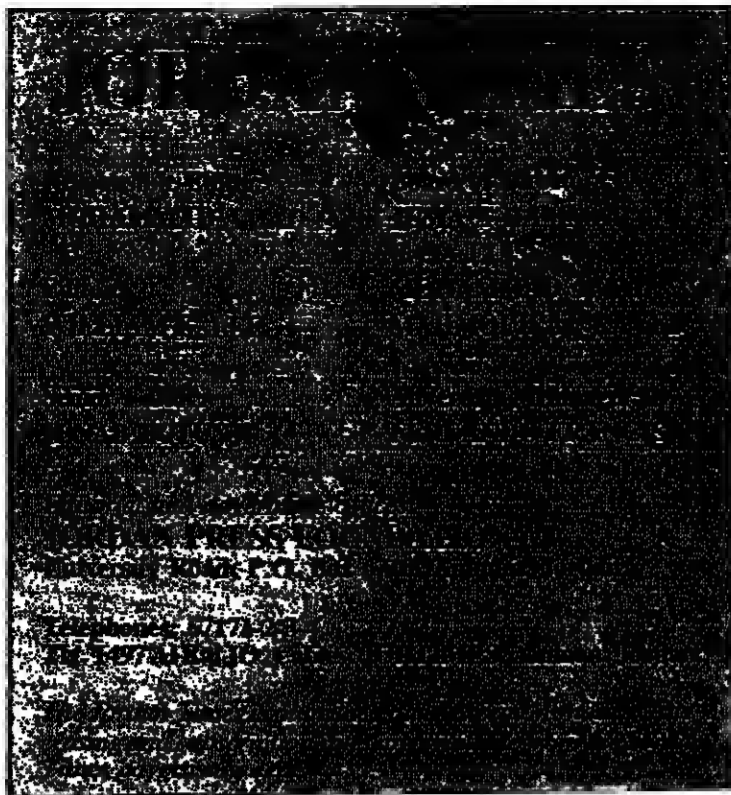
The communique was issued last night at the end of a 10-day visit to Ethiopia by Ali Nasser Mohammed, President and Prime Minister of South Yemen. The countries, with strong political and military links with Moscow, control the two shores of the strategic Bab El Mandeb straits, the narrow southern opening of the Red Sea.

Israel sends Arab to jail for three life terms

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (R)—An Arab from the West Bank of Jordan was yesterday sentenced to three terms of life imprisonment for 'sabotage activity'. Ahmad Rubhi Sharbati, 28, was among a group of guerrillas, including an Israeli Jew, caught by security forces late last year shortly before they planned to blow up a big explosive charge in Occupied Jerusalem. He was found guilty of firing a Katyusha rocket at a Jerusalem suburb over a year ago.

President Johnson's daughter files for divorce

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 19 (R)—The late President Lyndon Johnson's daughter, Luci Johnson Nugent—whose White House romance captured national attention—today filed for divorce from her husband of 12 years. The divorce is expected to be uncontested, and no grounds were listed. Mrs. Nugent and her husband, Patrick, who have three daughters, have been separated for about a year. Mr. Nugent recently resigned as general manager of an Austin radio station owned by the Johnson family, and has gone into the publishing business.



Spiral of violence

Are we witnessing the run-up to another Arab-Israeli war?

That is one conclusion one can draw from the escalation of violence in recent days and weeks, culminating in yesterday's Israeli ground attack on southern Lebanon. It follows weeks of heightening tension within Israel, between Israel and Lebanon and among the rival Palestinian and Israeli-backed Christian factions within Lebanon.

It is no coincidence that the renewed violence occurs as the American-sponsored Egyptian-Israeli peace talks reach the make-or-break point, and as unity is reinforced within the Palestinian movement and on the Arab eastern front with Israel.

All the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict sense that the crisis is at a turning point. They are taking steps to secure their positions as if to face a coming storm.

For the Israelis this means dropping all pretence of peacemaking and pushing ahead with acts of aggression both in the occupied territories and against their weakest Arab neighbour—in short, spoiling for a fight.

For the Arabs, this means strengthening the common front against the enemy, stepping up vigilance against acts aimed at undermining unity and sorting out family quarrels; we see evidence of this in several meaningful events in recent days—the Palestine National Council meetings in Damascus, the consultations between His Majesty King Hussein and President Assad and the Syrian-Iraqi unification moves.

The Palestinians, facing the prospect of the legitimisation of their disenfranchisement and dispossession if the Camp David accords are put into effect, have decided to intensify their resistance to Israeli occupation. The Israelis will no doubt use this as a pretext for launching new acts of aggression.

That is the way the spiral turns. Our side, while heightening its readiness for any eventuality, has never failed to restate its desire for a peaceful solution, based on the formula of Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territory and recognition of Palestinian national rights.

The world should not let that simple, urgent message be obscured in the smoke from the latest Israeli acts of aggression against the Arab nation.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Commenting on the explosion in Mahane Yehuda street in Jerusalem Thursday morning, **AL DUSTOUR** Friday put the real responsibility on the Israeli leaders for this explosion and all other disasters that have happened and might happen in Palestine as a result of their "stupidity, superciliousness and shortsightedness."

In the opinion of Teddy Kollek, the so-called Mayor of Jerusalem the time bombs which killed or wounded some 40 people was a "propaganda incident" designed to make big newspaper headlines. But Kollek could not understand that what happened in Mahane Yehuda was "the fruit of the Israeli tree of repression and tyranny planted in Palestine with the blood of the oppressed and their spoiled freedom—those who will never bow down to the usurpers of their land"—the newspaper says.

The Arabs, **Al Dustour** went on to say, have so long stated before all the world and in the international forums that the Palestine problem is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that there will be no peace without a just solution to this problem. But the Israeli leaders have closed their ears and persisted in their self-aggrandisement to the point of denying or, at best ignoring the existence of the people of Palestine.

As the Arabs have said time and again, Israel cannot possibly enjoy peace and keep the land at the same time, the newspaper stresses.

WHAT'S GOING ON

French Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a film entitled "Vipere au poing" adapted from a novel by Herve Bazin. The film starts at 7:30 p.m. and replaces the scheduled film "Souvenirs d'en France."

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Damas-Scene

Compiled for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of Jan. 20 - 26)

EXHIBITS

When you view the expressionistic works of Nazir Ismael, it's clear you're not looking at pretty pictures. You also sense the intensity and dedication of a gifted artist who portrays life as he sees it. If you're interested in collecting works by Arab artists, you shouldn't miss Mr. Ismael's one-man show slated through Jan. 28 at the French Cultural Centre.

A graduate of the Fine Arts Academy of Damascus University, Mr. Ismael has had five one-man shows and has been featured in six collective international exhibitions. The dark world of Nazir Ismael is reflected in his pen and ink and watercolour portrayals of sad men staring from behind bars...even his pastoral scenes of Syrian cows and chickens imply doom. Nonetheless, his mixed media works have style; he is Syrian artist coming into his own.

Several of his works are executed in a series of panels containing distorted, often tortured, human faces. "I've tried to make a union between the artist and the spectator by portraying the faces as if they were on a film strip," Mr. Ismael said. "The viewer relates to photos because the camera is realistic, yet my semblance of film strips departs into expressionistic treatments of the human face. I hope the spectator views those faces and reflects upon his own problems. Much as we would like it otherwise, life is not the fairy tale happiness offered us in Hollywood fantasies; perhaps my work will make others contemplate reality."

Hours of the exhibition are 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; 4:30 - 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, Jan. 20: An exhibition of sculptures by Asam Pasha opens for five days at the Arab Cultural Centre with a 6 p.m. reception. Born in Yabrud, Mr. Pasha received his training in Moscow. He teaches art in Damascus.

SUNDAY, Jan. 21: A one-woman show featuring 35 water colours and oils by Latakia artist Aline Geofroy opens with a 6 p.m. reception at Ummia Art Gallery, ground floor of the Meridien Hotel. Ms. Geofroy studied at the Beirut Fine Arts Academy. Her work ranges from still lifes and portraits to Syrian landscapes.

MONDAY, Jan. 22: "Artesania Oriental" titles an exhibition of oriental carpets and antique jewelry at the Spanish Cultural Centre. Nabil Bassaleh and George Obeid are presenting the five-day exhibit which opens with a 6:30 p.m. reception.

TUESDAY, Jan. 23: Thirty oil paintings by Ghassan Jidid of Tartous go on view for 10 days at Al Sha'h Gallery. Mr. Jidid graduated from the Fine Arts Academy of Damascus University.

THURSDAY, Jan. 25: An exhibition by a Romanian artist will open with a short film during a 6 p.m. reception at the Arab Cultural Centre.

CONTINUING: "Treasures from Dresden" titles an exhibition of reproductions of famous paintings from Dresden art museums at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre through Jan. 30.



Damascene artist Nazir Ismael (right) discusses his works with viewers attending the opening of his one-man show at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURES

TUESDAY, Jan. 23: A roundtable discussion on "Thirty Years of Mutual Economic Aid (COMECON) - Balance and Perspective" is slated for 6 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German and Arabic).

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24: A lecture dedicated to G.E. Lessing on his 250th birthday will be delivered at 6 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

THURSDAY, Jan. 25: A literary evening marking the 100th birthday of the Soviet writer Bajov (1879-1950) will be held at 6 p.m. at the Music Salon of the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

FRIDAY, Jan. 26: A lecture in memory in Lenin is slated for 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

THEATRE

CONTINUING: Mamduh Adwan's adaptation of "Man of La Mancha" is directed nightly by Mahmoud Hadour at Al Hamra Theatre. The cast from the National Theatre of Syria stars Abdul Latif Fathy, Farah Dipsey, Fida Samour, Abdelsalam Altaib and Salyum Haddad. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. nightly except Friday (in Arabic).

The Experimental Theatre of Syria presents "The Way of Celebration" at 8:30 p.m. nightly except Friday at Abbasi Cinema next to the Semiramis Hotel (in Arabic).

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMMES

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24: "Le temps partage", a programme devoted to French ballet, will be shown at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

FRIDAY, Jan. 26: "Les caprices de Marianne" by Musset is slated for 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

SATURDAY, Jan. 20 and MONDAY, Jan. 22: "Les Creatures," a film directed by Agnes Varda starring Catherine Deneuve and Michel Piccoli, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

SUNDAY, Jan. 21: "Emilia Galotti," a film based on a novel by G.E. Lessing, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German, Arabic and English sub-titles).

MONDAY, Jan. 22: "Lenin in October" is title of a documentary to be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24: "Seventeen Minutes of Spring," a true-to-life film on World War II espionage, will culminate in the final chapter at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

PAT-POURRI

FRIDAY, Jan. 26: The Soviet Cultural Centre will officially open its chess club in the name of Nately Kurpov under the patronage of Syrian Minister of Defence Mustafa Tlass.

ELSEWHERE IN SYRIA

TUESDAY, Jan. 23: The noted British classical guitarist Julian Byzantine will perform works by Narvaes, de Mudarra, J.S. Bach, Giuliani, Rodrigo, Lennox Berkeley and Albeniz at 8 p.m. at the National Library of Aleppo. Born in London, Mr. Byzantine studied with John Williams at the Royal College of Music and attended master classes with Julian Bream. In Italy, he was chosen by Andres Segovia to give a solo recital at Sienna. He later joined the staff of the Royal Academy of Music and gained fame as a soloist and concert performer with the Royal Philharmonic. He is well-known as a broadcaster on the BBC and on independent television and is a recording artist as well.

If you have items for the Damas-Scene column, please send them ten days in advance to Pat McDonnell, P.O. Box 5601, Damascus, Syria.

U.S., German firms vie for Hijaz railway feasibility contract

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 19--American and West German consulting engineering firms are best placed to win the contract for the feasibility study of what will probably be one of the Middle East's most demanding engineering jobs—rebuilding the 1,300-km-long Hijaz railway linking Damascus, in Syria, with Medina, in western Saudi Arabia.

This was revealed to the Jordan Times in an interview here yesterday by Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, who said that three of the eight shortlisted international consulting consortia have been asked to meet in Damascus in the first week of February to negotiate their terms with a three-man technical committee representing Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

One consortium will be selected then and the contract for the economic and technical feasibility study of the massive scheme will be signed in Amman before the end of February, in the presence

of the transport or communications ministers of the three Arab states jointly working on the railway reconstruction project. Mr. Suheimat said. The contract would have to be completed within 13 months.

He estimated the consulting engineering phase of the project, including the feasibility studies, the appointing of a consulting engineering firm or consortium of

firms, and the drawing up of the final designs and tender documents, would take nearly three years, and the actual construction phase of the project would require another five years.

He would not venture an estimate of the cost of the project, because this depended largely on the final configuration of the railway facilities themselves. The aim is to build an entirely new and

modern standard-gauge railway from Damascus to Medina, a distance of 1,300 kilometres, but it would be part of the feasibility study project to determine the optimum configuration, which could call for a single-track or a double-track railway, with various numbers and kinds of stations along the way.

Mr. Suheimat said the railway would be mostly used to haul freight between Europe and the states of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Arabian Gulf, though passenger traffic would also be carried, particularly during the annual Moslem hajj (pilgrimage) season.

He also said that Turkey would be contacted soon to discuss upgrading its railway system, which provides the critical link between Europe and Asia. It would be a bit silly to spend so much money rebuilding the Hijaz railway only to have the trains enter a bottleneck during their transit through Turkey, the minister said.

He said the costs of the project would be shared by the three states, but did not specify how this would be done.

He said, however, that this is expected to be "an economical project", in that it is supposed to be largely self-financing after it

starts working. Revenues from operating the railway would eventually cover its construction cost, he said, and it is one of the feasibility study's objects to determine the most economical means building and financing the project.

Commercial sources in Amman, who have had previous expertise with railway projects in the Middle East estimate that the Hijaz railway project would cost in the neighbourhood of around \$1 billion at the very least, and could considerably more expensive the two-track configuration adopted.

Coming & Going

Minister of Labour

off to Qatar

AMMAN, Jan. 19 (JNA)--Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni left for Doha this evening for a visit to Qatar at the invitation of his Qatari counterpart. The visit

comes at a time when ministers of labour in the Gulf states are holding a three-day conference starting tomorrow to follow up discussions on coordination among their countries and also between their countries and Jordan in the field of labour and social affairs. Discussions on the subject started during the meetings of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva last June and continued at the meetings of Arab social affairs ministers held in Baghdad last November.

North Korean delegation arrives

AMMAN, Jan. 19 (JNA)--A trade delegation from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea arrived here today for a four-day official visit to Jordan. During the visit its members will hold talks with Jordanian officials on ways of promoting trade and economic ties between the two countries. The delegation which is led by the North Korean under-secretary of trade is also expected to conclude contracts for the purchase of Jordanian products.



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Children plant seeds for future

Jordan Times photos
by Bill Lyons

AMMAN, Jan. 19 (J.T.)—An enjoyable day's outing today by several hundred people on a hillside northeast of Amman will bear fruit for future generations.

The occasion was a tree-planting ceremony at the Yajouz International Children's Forest, held under the patronage of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Sarvath. The King's daughter, Princess Alia, took part in the occasion, which was sponsored by the Friends of the Children Club as part of Jordan's celebrations marking the International Year of the Child.

The area designated for the forest was divided into sections in which Jordanian families and organisations, members of the diplomatic corps and of the international community in Amman planted seedlings of many different types of trees. In all, some 3,500 trees from Jordan and 1,000 brought in specially from abroad were planted. About a dozen foreign embassies planted trees from their countries.

Among those attending the ceremony were Sharif Nasser bin Jamil, the King's uncle, and his wife, who is President of the Friends of the Children Club.



HRH Princess Alia planted a tree in each of the different sections of the international forest.



One of the organisers from the Friends of the Children Club, Mr. Hatham Gussous, and family plant a tree in the Jordanian section.



It was, above all, a day for children.



Jordanian scouts, who also helped direct traffic to the site, are seen here in the French planting area.



One of the many young Jordanians who took part.



Soviet ambassador Rafiq Nizhanov plants a tree sent from the Black Sea coast.



British Ambassador John Moberley and company.



With loving care, a seedling is planted.



Princess Alia and her party arrive for the ceremonies.



Jordanian family doing their part for the effort.



Joined in the American contribution to the tree-planting day.



The Italian plot at the International Children's Forest.

Married at 15, widowed at 24, Hassina Tweir is a survivor

Text and photo by Pat McDonnell
Special to the Jordan Times



Hassina Tweir with Ebla, the youngest of her 31 grandchildren by whom she is surrounded daily in Deir Ez-Zor, Syria.

Editor's Note: This is the third in a continuing series on Women of Syria.

DEIR EZ-ZOR -- Few people experience what Hassina Tweir, 74, did in her first 24 years. Her father was killed by the Turks in 1912 when she was 8 years old.

At 13, her future husband avenged her father's death by killing the man who betrayed him to the Turks.

She was married at the age of 15 and widowed at age 24 in 1928 when her husband was executed by the French.

Hassina Tweir is the epitome of Syrian womanhood: warm, emotional, fiercely loyal and indefatigable in the face of harsh adversities. Above all, she is a survivor.

Hassina was the eldest of five children in 1912 when her father, Ali, was conscripted into the Turkish army. As the contingent of Syrian draftees was being marched from Deir Ez-Zor, her father told the Turkish guards he needed a drink from the nearby Euphrates.

A Turkish sympathiser warned the guards that if Ali Tweir jumped into the water, they'd never see him again, he was the best swimmer in Deir Ez-Zor.

The guards sighted their rifles and when Ali dove, they fired. His widow retrieved his body from the river bank three days later.

A cousin of Hassina's, Mahmoud Aiyash, vowed to avenge the death of Ali. Both Hassina and Mahmoud belonged to the Bu-Obeid clan which had

ruled Deir Ez-Zor since the 1870s. The clan was led by Mahmoud's father, Aiyash Obeid. It took seven years, but Mahmoud carried out his vow in 1917 when he confronted the man who betrayed Hassina's father to the Turkish guards. He fatally stabbed him. Two years later, Hassina and Mahmoud were married.

Although she is reluctant to admit it, Hassina's marriage to Mahmoud was a turbulent one. Her father-in-law cooperated with the French during the early years of the Mandate, yet her husband continued to be a fiery patriot, more interested in plotting against the French than in supporting his family. Her first two children died in infancy. Hassina was expecting her third when uprisings against the French spread to revolutionary strength in 1928.

Mahmoud openly broke with his father at this time over their disagreement concerning the clan leader's cooperation with the French. Mahmoud swore to his father that he would make him rue the day he ever sympathised with foreigners ruling Syria. The two men never saw one another again.

In the half century that has passed since the incident at Ain Bu Jema', many legends have evolved. Hassina still adamantly denies her husband had a part in it. The French believed otherwise.

The actual events seem to be that Mahmoud gained advance

information that a French colonel and an armed escort of 14 men were coming to Deir Ez-Zor from Aleppo in two cars.

The most popular legend is that Mahmoud and seven other villagers ambushed the cars, beheaded all members of the French convoy, and sent the cars back to Aleppo with the heads on the passenger seats.

What actually happened is perhaps even more tragic. At Ain Bu Jema', a village 10 kms. west of Deir Ez-Zor, the French colonel and his convoy were apprehended by Mahmoud and his men. The French were bound, blindfolded and gagged by their captors who then lowered them into an empty water well.

The French would have lived if search parties had known where to look. Unfortunately, their whereabouts was discovered too late.

The decapitation tale probably grew around Mahmoud's fatal mistake. After leaving the French in the well, Mahmoud and his men took the hats of the French as souvenirs of their successful mission.

Although he did not discuss his guerrilla action with Hassina, Mahmoud did cache two of the French military caps in their home.

One month after the bodies of the French convoy had been recovered, a house-to-house search was conducted by the French authorities. The hats were discovered and Ali was arrested as the leader of the band and he was sent to Aleppo for trial.

Hassina never again heard from her husband. Fearful of the French and unable to read newspapers, she could only rely upon rumours.

One story told to her was that her husband had been shot before a firing squad and that the wife of the French colonel had shot the fatal bullet. Others told her that Mahmoud had been sent to a prison in France. As late as the 1950s, a Syrian who had travelled to France told Hassina he had seen her husband selling newspapers on a street in Paris.

Mahmoud's vows to his father that he would rue the day he had cooperated with the French came true. Shortly after Mahmoud's arrest, the French removed all immediate members of his family to Jehla near Latakia.

Hassina was left to fend for herself in Deir Ez-Zor.... no easy task for a pregnant, illiterate widow in the hinterlands of French-controlled Syria in 1928. In the West, Hassina might have become a servant, waitress, or seamstress. In Syria, she was expected to remarry.

Fortunately, she did not have to become a second, third or fourth wife. Instead, she came under the gentle protection of a bachelor, Abdu Arazah Al-Faisal, who was nearly 20 years her senior. They soon were wed and produced five children.

Although her eyes are failing and she complains of foot trouble, Hassina is a happy, active woman who daily oversees the household cooking for one of her two sons. She alternatively lives in the house of one of her sons, then the other.

Ask her even today, 50 years after the incident of Ain Bu Jema' if her first husband, Mahmoud, was involved and she firmly remonstrates:

"I lived with this man for nine years and I knew him long before them. He was innocent."

Soviet book cites extensive Zionist influence in the West

MOSCOW, Jan. 19 (R) -- The Soviet Union has published a new book attacking Zionism, which it describes as "the chauvinist ideology of the powerful Jewish bourgeoisie" in the capitalist West.

"The Ideology and Practice of International Zionism" is the work of the influential Soviet Academy of Sciences and is published by the Political Publishing House in Moscow.

Praised in an authoritative review by the Communist Party daily Pravda, the book not only attacks Israel and its policies but accuses "Zionist centres" of controlling Western news media and waging a secret campaign of subversion against the Soviet bloc.

It also bitterly attacks Judaism as a religion, quoting early writings by Karl Marx in which the founder of Communism said the real religion of the Jews was money.

"Where rabbis and Zionists rule, all is subordinated to one goal -- serving in interests of capital," the book says, adding that there is no basic difference between orthodox, reformed and other currents in modern Judaism. It traces the origins of Zionism to the Jews' belief that they are God's chosen people, a common theme in other Soviet attacks on Zionism in recent years.

Israel has frequently complained that Soviet anti-Zionist propaganda is "anti-Semitic," but the Soviet Union has always denied this, arguing that anti-Semitism is against the law in the Soviet Union.

The new 270-page work, which may reopen the controversy, has been written under the close supervision of a veteran Communist Party ideologist, academician Mark Mitin.

Academician Mitin, now head of the Communist Party's Institute of Marxism-Leninism for a period in the 1940s under dictator Josef Stalin.

In 1953, just before Stalin's death, he played a major part in a propaganda campaign to accuse foreign Zionists of links with the so-called "doctors' plot."

This affair, which climaxed several years of anti-Jewish purges, involved charges against a group of Kremlin physicians, many of them Jewish, who were accused of conspiring to murder Soviet leaders on orders from abroad.

Mr. Mitin, at the time editor of the Cominform journal "For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy," wrote an article on "The Zionist Agency of American Imperialism" in which he denounced "the vile crimes of the terrorist doctor-killers."

After Stalin's death the campaign was called off and the doctors' plot was said to have been an invention of Stalin's police chief Lavrenti Beria.

The new work does not repeat the plot allegations, but it resurrects charges made in the Stalin era that Jewish charitable and cultural organisations in the West are fronts for subversion against the Soviet Union. It lists as "Zionist centres" the American Jewish Organisation B'nai B'rith, the League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism in France, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Paris, Israel's Weizman Institute and the Documentation Centre for Nazi Crimes in Vienna.

It devotes a large amount of

space to describing the control alleged to be wielded over the media in the West by "Zionist Centres" financed by the "powerful Jewish bourgeoisie."

"It is known that 80 per cent of American and international information agencies are under the influence of international Zionist centres," the book says, adding that Zionists also use radio stations such as the Voice of America (VOA), the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the West German Deutsche Welle.

Zionists, the authors say, have penetrated their cadres and sympathisers into the worlds of the press, radio, the cinema, science, art and literature in many Western countries.

Their aim is to gain influence over Jews in the Soviet Union and recruit them as agents, the book warns, citing as an example Anatoly Shecharansky, a Moscow Jew, sentenced to 13 years in prison and labour camp last year on espionage charges.

Listing a variety of Western writers as being Zionist or pro-Zionist -- Bernard Malamud, Kingsley Amis, Robert Conquest, Raymond Aron, Eugene Ionesco and others -- the book follows Lenin in arguing that all attempts

to develop a specifically Jewish culture by the Soviet Union's two or three million Jews should be resisted.

It gives as an example the activities at an international book fair in Moscow last year of the American Association of Jewish Book Publishers and goes on:

"Every Soviet citizen regards it as vital to display high political vigilance and recognise the class enemy under whatever mask he acts and whatever slogans he cries."

The book draws a link between "Zionist" and liberal "revisionists," accusing Zionists of playing a major role in the 1968 "Prague spring" in Czechoslovakia.

This period of liberalisation, ended by the Warsaw Pact invasion of August 1968, is described as a counter-revolution partly financed from the West.

The book attacks Edvard Goldstuecker, Jewish head of the Writers' Union in 1968, and other Czech and Slovak cultural figures now in disgrace.

The book says that Zionists are in control of half the magazines in the United States, half the radio stations and three quarters of the foreign bureaux of American news media.

Official Zionist organisations

today are lead by "rabbi-lionaires, bankers, stock speculators and representative monopolies," it says.

The book draws a parallel between the activities of pro-Zionists and the attempts of "revisionist" Jewish organisations, B'nai B'rith to set up societies among the Jews in century Russia.

The picture it draws of pre-revolutionary Russia as from the generally accepted widespread discrimination, officially encouraged pogroms and confinement to the pale of settlement in western Asia.

The authors mention pogroms only in passing and say they not affect the interests of the Jewish bourgeoisie, which is many "capitalist-Jews" and bankers who supported the and wielded considerable power.

It deals in detail with the wing and socialist movement which developed among the before the revolution and say they were socialist in name.

When the revolution came socialist Jewish organisations best known of which was Bund, opposed Lenin and the sheviks and sided with their agents, the book says.

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Hong Kong's booming clothing industry

HONG KONG, Jan. 18 (AP) — The odds are good that the shirt on your back was made in Hong Kong — whether it's a \$5 leisure shirt or a \$150 Calvin Klein silk.

Since 1973, Hong Kong has retained the title of the world's largest clothing exporter and the United States is far and away its biggest market.

In the late 1950s and 1960s, the "Made in Hong Kong" label became synonymous with mass produced cheap clothes. Not anymore. There are still plenty of inexpensive trousers, shirts, blouses and sweaters — the big four export items — but now there are plenty of expensive ones, too.

In recent years, the list of famous designers manufacturing in Hong Kong has grown to the point where it now reads like the "who's who" of fashion: Calvin Klein, Pierre Cardin, Fiorucci, Givenchy, Yves St. Laurent, Christian Dior and Gloria Vanderbilt.

This week's 12th annual Ready-to-wear Festival has attracted more than 4,300 buyers from 60 countries, including such American pacesetters as Saks Fifth Avenue, 1. Magnin and Marshall Field.

Arie Maas, managing director of the Hema B.V. chain in Amsterdam, said: "Hong Kong is by far the best in the Far East of

the cheaper producing countries... they have made tremendous improvements in terms of quality and style."

Anne Bruh, fashion coordinator for London's Frank Usher specialty fashion house, said she comes to Hong Kong "because we find it impossible to get high quality production in Europe and elsewhere and here we find people so willing and able."

Nearly one third of Hong Kong's manufacturing workforce is employed in the garment industry and last year's exports totaled over \$3 billion — about 41 percent to the United States. West Germany and England rank second

and third as export markets.

The local industry has largely succeeded in changing its image from a mass producer of basic cheap merchandise to a quality producer of luxury fashions and designer-label ready-to-wear. But a survey of buyers unanimously agreed that this British crown colony has a long way to go before it can call itself an international fashion centre.

As Frenchman Gilles Raysee, managing director of Jungle Jap Kenzo Ltd., of Paris, put it: "They are adaptors, not designers. They haven't been able to create their own look. Paris creates the look all over the world."

Mr. Wechsler added, "Hong Kong, by its geographical place in the sun, is always a season behind. The collections we're seeing today are taken from the United States and Europe. Hong Kong is geared to large quantities of merchandise and stores, when they buy in quantities, are more likely to go for

classic types rather than innovative types."

In an effort to encourage local talent, the Ready-to-wear Festival has sponsored a "young designers' show" for the past three years. This year's winner, 24-year-old Alison Kw, used the late Chinese Chairman Mao Tse-tung's "long march" as inspiration for her original blend of Chinese designs and Western cut and printing techniques.

Mr. Raysee praised Miss Kw's collection for its feeling for colour, technique and personality. He said the whole show, which featured 17 young designers, boded well for the future of the industry here.

Bernie Ozer, president of the major American buying agency AMC, added: "If they nurture and develop their own talent which is here, they will grow — because they can't always feed on everyone else."

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 20, 1979

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A curious day and you would be wise to use your best judgment in observing other persons and avoid getting them riled up about whatever they do, or do not like.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) All types of individuals could come into your life today, so be discriminating for best results. Be alert to dangers around you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have much personal work to do today. Get an early start so you'll have time for recreation later. Strive for harmony at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A good time to engage in favorite hobby with congenials. Budget your money wisely. Think in a happy vein.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Try to please those who dwell with you and increase harmony at home. Study a new project carefully.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Keep on an even keel today since you are likely to be reckless at one moment and overly cautious at another. Show others you have wisdom.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to get a proper perspective with regard to your financial status. Make practical plans for the days ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) One moment you have great creative ability, another time it is lacking. Be more confident of yourself for best results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Rid yourself of whatever appears to be a stumbling block to progress. Your hunches are accurate now and should be followed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You want to improve your appearance but don't make any dramatic changes or you could regret it later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take your problems to an expert who can help you get them solved quickly. Think along constructive lines.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have good ideas but are not sure of them, so analyse them better before putting them in operation. Expressa happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your mate is acting in a strange fashion, so be patient until the confusion ends. Avoid one who is a troublemaker.

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